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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

M. ABE, et al.

Application No.:

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Examiner:

T. H. Bui

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

UNDER 37 CFR '1.97 & 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 November 14, 2003

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to form PTO/SB/08A for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance and is accompanied by the following certification specified in 37 CFR '1.97(e)

On information and belief, I hereby certify that no item of information in the information disclosure statement filed herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in '1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Each of the documents listed on the attached form PTO/SB/08A is in the English language.

To the extent the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to form PTO/SB/08A are not in the English language, the requirement of 37 CFR '1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by an English language version or translation of the foreign patent office report citing the documents.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.40884X00) please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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